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ATOTP0103USA

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Nayan H. Joshi et al

Serial No: 10/806,839

Filed: March 23, 2004

Art Unit: 1755

Examiner: H.G. Klemanski

OFFICIAL

For: AQUEOUS ALKALINE ZINCATE SOLUTIONS AND METHODS

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This letter is submitted in reply to the Communication mailed from the Patent Office on July 12, 2004. Favorable reconsideration of the above-identified application is respectfully requested in view of the Amendments to the Specification on page 2, the Amendments to the Claims beginning on page 3, and the Remarks beginning on page 12.

-1-

PAGE 1/15 * RCVD AT 7/30/2004 3:05:49 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFAX-1/9 * DNIS:8729306 * CSID:216 621 6165 * DURATION (mm:ss):03:52

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solutions of the invention, and cationic condensation polymers of the types disclosed in Haydu are not included. There is no disclosure in Haydu that would render it obvious to one skilled in the art to utilize the inhibitors now identified in the claims.

Reference to Co-Pending Application

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.56(a), Applicants wish to bring to the Examiner's attention co-pending application U.S. Serial No. 10/606,460 filed on June 26, 2003. This application describes processes for depositing a zinc alloy protection coating on aluminum or aluminum based alloy substrates using aqueous acidic solutions containing zinc ions, nickel and/or cobalt, fluoride and inhibitors of the types utilized in the alkaline zincate solution used in the method of the present claims. The co-pending application is being examined in Art Unit 1762.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-40 are allowable. An early action to this effect is solicited.

In the event any additional fee is due in connection with the filing of this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to our Deposit Account No. 18-0988 (Attorney Docket Number ATOTP0103USA).

Respectfully submitted,

RENNER, OTTO, BOISSELLE & SKLAR, LLP

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-15-